

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed December 22, 2004. Applicant appreciates the Examiner's consideration of the Application. Claims 4 and 13 have been canceled, and Claims 1, 10, and 19 have been amended. Certain amendments do not narrow the scope of the claims, and certain amendments are not required for patentability. Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been added by the amendments to the claims. In order to advance prosecution of this Application, Applicant has responded to each notation by the Examiner. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Objected to Claims

Claims 4 and 13 have been canceled.

Section 103(a) Rejection

The Examiner rejects under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a): Claims 1-3, 5-8, 10-12, 14-17, and 19 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,573,804 to Kavoussi et al. ("*Kavoussi '804*") in light of U.S. Patent No. 4,645,353 to Kavoussi et al. ("*Kavoussi '353*") and U.S. Patent No. 5,995,455 to Kutosky ("*Kutosky*"); and Claims 9 and 18 as being unpatentable over *Kavoussi '804* in view of *Kavoussi '353*, *Kutosky*, and U.S. Patent No. 5,212,672 to Loisch et al. ("*Loisch*"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for the reasons discussed below.

Claims 4 and 13 are objected to, but not rejected. Accordingly, Applicant assumes that Claims 4 and 13 include allowable subject matter. Independent Claims 1, 10, and 19 have been amended to include the limitations of Claims 4 and 13. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of independent Claims 1, 10, and 19.

The dependent claims are allowable based on their dependence on the independent claims, and further because they recite numerous additional patentable distinctions over the references of the rejection. Because Applicant believes he has amply demonstrated the allowability of the independent claims over the references of the rejection, and to avoid burdening the record, Applicant has not provided detailed remarks concerning these dependent claims. Applicant, however, remains ready to provide such remarks if it becomes

appropriate to do so. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of all claims that depend on independent Claims 1, 10, and 19.

Allowed Claims

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's allowance of Claim 20.

CONCLUSION

Applicant has made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully requests full allowance of all the pending claims.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance prosecution of this case in any way, the Examiner is invited to contact Keiko Ichiye, the Attorney for Applicant, at the Examiner's convenience at (214) 953-6494.

Although Applicant believes no fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

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